

OCI No. 2109/65

17 June 1965

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Movement of North Vietnamese to the South
in 1955

Nearly 900,000, mostly Catholics, came from North Vietnam to South Vietnam following the armistice arrangements of the Geneva Conference of 1954. With extensive US assistance, the South Vietnamese government succeeded in meeting the serious problems posed by this influx of refugees. The refugees were given land largely in the provinces to the north and east of Saigon. These refugee communities have tended to remain closely knit under their own leadership, primarily clerical. It is some of these northern Catholic refugee communities which have been in the forefront of the recent agitation which helped bring down the Quat government.

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